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The President's Daily Brief

January 17, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

January 17, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

French

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The Libyans are taking unusual military measures, possibly in response to Middle East press reports that the US is considering an invasion of Arab oil fields. (Page 2)

Tunisia has effectively shelved its agreement for a union with Libya. (Page 3)

Indonesian youths continued to roam Jakarta's streets yesterday; the army, thus far lenient, may take sterner measures. (Page 4)

Tokyo is taking a serious look at its economic activities in Southeast Asia because of anti-Japanese reactions encountered by Prime Minister Tanaka during his visits there. (Page 5)

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Argentina

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FRANCE

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MIDDLE EAST

For a third day in a row, Israeli troops yesterday halted supply convoys for Suez and the encircled Egyptian Third Army because of continuing cease-fire violations. An Egyptian protest can probably be expected. Defense Minister Dayan said on January 14 that Israel would stop the convoys if the violations continued. Israel is concerned over the casualties its troops have taken since the cease-fire was declared. Twenty-four men have reportedly been killed and 93 wounded.

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The Libyans are taking unusual military measures, possibly in response to recent Middle East press reports that the US is considering an invasion of Arab oil fields.

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[REDACTED]

The Libyans took similar precautions last September in the wake of press stories about US desert warfare exercises. During the October war, Libyan leaders expressed alarm over reports they received of a potential US-Israeli invasion along Libya's eastern coastline near the Egyptian border.

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TUNISIA-LIBYA

Tunisia has effectively shelved its agreement for a union with Libya. Newly appointed Foreign Minister Chatti announced yesterday that his country will never unite with Libya as long as Morocco or Algeria opposes such a union. While avoiding a public statement that the merger is null and void, Chatti characterized the agreement as a declaration of principle rather than a program for concrete action.

The Tunisian Government, anticipating adverse reactions both at home and from Libya, has ordered special security measures throughout the country and has closed the border with Libya. Two days ago, there was a rally at Tunis University with anti-Bourguiba overtones, and Tunisian security authorities are concerned over the possibility of mass marches on Tunis by Libyan demonstrators.

Students will continue to be the most likely troublemakers. They believe a merger would bring new job opportunities and a greater role for Tunisia in Arab affairs. By contrast, middle-class Tunisians and probably the military distrust Qadhafi and therefore oppose union.

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INDONESIA

Groups of Indonesian youths continued to roam Jakarta's streets yesterday. Vandalism declined slightly, but a building owned by the state oil company was burned--the first incident involving government property. Student demonstrators, numbering as many as 5,000 at times, called for changes in government economic policies and for dismissal of presidential advisers closely identified with Japanese and overseas Chinese business interests.

State security chief General Sumitro served notice last night that the army will no longer be lenient; it will now arrest anyone who disturbs the peace. Army units failed to enforce the Monday night curfew and Tuesday's ban on assembly in groups of five or more. During the initial outbreak, troops reportedly stood by as youths burned stores and automobiles.

The army's failure to prevent a general breakdown of urban security has already given rise to recriminations among top military leaders, particularly against General Sumitro, and could lead to political realignments within the ruling elite.

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JAPAN - SOUTHEAST ASIA

Tokyo is taking a serious look at its economic activities in Southeast Asia as a result of the anti-Japanese reactions encountered by Prime Minister Tanaka during his visits to Southeast Asian countries, particularly Indonesia. Chief Cabinet Secretary Nikaido announced yesterday that the government will shortly develop guidelines for the conduct of private business overseas. These probably will mean extensive governmental supervision. According to press reports, Japan will also exercise increased control over economic assistance, whether extended by the government or by private entities.

Japanese opposition parties can be counted on to raise the issue of Japan's economic activities abroad when the Diet reconvenes on January 21. A Socialist Party official has already attacked the government's Asian policy, claiming that it is based on "economic intrusion" and "great-nation chauvinism."

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ARGENTINA

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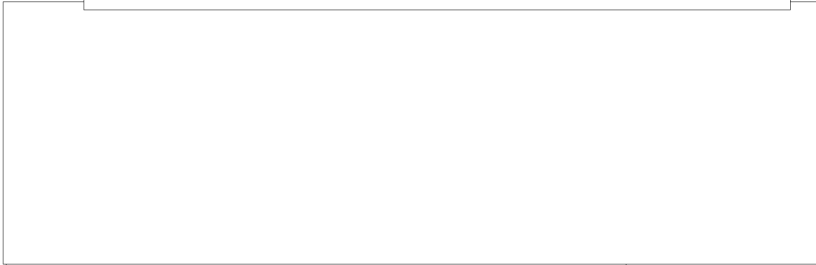
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NOTES

USSR-Cuba:

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North Korea - Egypt

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